

THE WAR FOR THE UNION.
HOUSE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS.
ADVANCE OF CONFISCATION AND EMANCIPATION
THE FRENCH MINISTER'S VISIT TO RICHMOND
IMPORTANT ARMY GENERAL ORDERS.
DISMISSALS FROM THE SERVICE.
EFFICIENCY OF THE BLOCKADE.
LAKE AND COAST FORTIFICATIONS.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, April 23, 1862.
The House Republican caucus to-night, which did not adjourn till 10 o'clock, was unexpectedly harmonious. Forty or fifty members were present. Mr. Coffey presided, and Mr. McPherson was Secretary. The only legislative question discussed was the policy of Confiscation and Emancipation.
The following gentlemen made five-minute speeches:
Messrs Stevens, Olin, Ashley, Frank Blair, F. A. and R. Conkling, Kellogg of Mich., White of Ind., Trimble, Foster, Porter, Cutler, Davis, Hatcher, Kelly, Corvode, and Watts.
The unanimous opinion of the speakers was in favor of Confiscation or Emancipation in some shape, and those few who doubted indicated their willingness to abide by the general opinion. The caucus without a dissenting voice finally resolved in favor of a reference of all the Confiscation bills to a Select Committee of seven, a majority of whom should be friends of a decided Confiscating and liberating policy. The debate showed a tendency to adopt Senator Sherman's bill, which deprives of property and slaves the leading classes of Rebels, such as army and navy officers, persons who have taken the oath to the Constitution, those who have broken it, which declares all who continue in arms for sixty days after its passage infamous and ineligible to office, and authorizes the President to emancipate and arm the slaves in the rebellious region after proclamation and the expiration of sixty days. Several additional classes of persons to be punished were, however, suggested, among them Southern editors who have joined the Southern cause and fired the Southern heart.
MR. MAYNARD'S SENTIMENTS.
Hon. Maynard, who returned from Tennessee, and took his seat to-day, declares himself in favor of a stringent confiscation act against the Rebels. Several other Border State members will support him.
ARIZONA.
The Senate Committee on Territories has instructed its Chairman to report a bill identical with that reported to the House by Mr. Ashley, organizing the Territory of Arizona. One section extends the Wilcox Proviso over every Territory now organized.
THE FRENCH MINISTER'S VISIT TO RICHMOND.
The object of the visit of the French Minister to Richmond has not yet transpired. Some say that he is in Richmond merely to look after French tobacco. Some connect the visit with the Mexican question. Some believe that he has come to see for himself and perhaps for Napoleon alone what the real condition of the Rebels is. A theory is entertained by others that Mr. Mercier left Washington to tell the Rebels that their cause was a hopeless one and that they could expect no assistance from France. But no one, as we learn positively from those most likely to be informed, knows the real significance of the visit. No one knows even so much as whether he is acting under instructions from France or of his own motion.
FROM FREDERICKSBURG.
An officer who left the vicinity of Fredericksburg this morning reports all quiet within Gen. McDowell's lines.
ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATIONS.
The following has been issued:
WAR DEPARTMENT, Adjutant-General's Office, Washington, April 23, 1862.
GENERAL ORDERS NO. 41.—The Secretary of War has observed with some surprise that the commanders of one or two military departments conceiving themselves empowered to do so, have undertaken to accept the resignations of and otherwise discharge commissioned or appointed by the President in the volunteer staff of the army. All such discharges are irregular, and, unless confirmed by the President, void of effect. None but the President can discharge an officer appointed by himself, and as he has not delegated this power to any General, no General must attempt to exercise it.
By order of the Secretary of War,
L. THOMAS, Adjutant-General.

New-Orleans Tribune.

Vol. XXII, No. 6,569. NEW-YORK, THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 1862. PRICE TWO CENTS.

Southern coast, in permitting vessels to escape and go in, was laid before the Secretary of the Navy for his views. It is understood that the Navy Department have addressed letters to the officers commanding the blockading squadrons, requesting full and minute particulars of their operations since they have been on their stations. Their answer is complete; comprise valuable information, and go far to correct erroneous statements which have been sent abroad by the agents of foreign governments in the Rebel States.

CONFIRMATIONS.
This morning the Senate Military Committee passed upon several nominations. Among those reported then for confirmation was Gen. Shields to be Major-General, and Col. Crittenden, of Kentucky, to be Brigadier-General.

EMANCIPATION COMMISSIONER.
Horatio King, Buchanan's Postmaster-General, was nominated to-day as Commissioner under the District Emancipation act, in place of ex-Mayor Barrett.

GEN. BLENNER SUPERSEDED.
Gen. Rosecrans has superseded Gen. Blenner in command of the German division.

SEA COAST AND LAKE DEFENSES.
The bill reported from the Committee on Military Affairs to-day authorizes and requires the President to convene a Board, to consist of two officers of the Corps of Engineers, one Ordnance officer, one Artillery officer, two officers of the Navy, two members selected by reason of their scientific and practical attainments, and an officer of the Corps of Engineers as Secretary whose duty it shall be to examine and consider the system of sea coast and lake fortifications, with special reference to such changes as may be necessary or advisable because of the introduction of new elements of attack and defense; to examine new devices for defense, and test by experiment such points in the construction of fortifications as the President may think needful; the Board to report to the President for transmission to Congress its conclusions and results, with such supporting information as may seem appropriate.

The President may, in his judgment, the exigencies of the country require it, order the work recommended by the Commission to be commenced and prosecuted without the previous assent of Congress. The bill further provides that the amount appropriated for this session for fortifications shall be expended, under the direction of the President, upon such defensive works as shall be recommended by the Commission, and authorized the President to accept any sum of money loaned or advanced by the several States for the construction of defensive works for the protection of the States, making such loans upon such terms as shall be agreed upon between the proper authorities.

The Board is also required to examine and consider the propriety of constructing a navy-yard and depot on the Northern Lakes, of a foundry for the manufacture of ordnance, and also an arsenal and arsenal of construction of the Allegheny Mountains, and of additional armaments of deposit and repair, and shall subject to the approval of the President, locate the same at such points as shall, from purely military considerations, appear best for the defense of the country.

The bill also provides that there shall be added to the number of Cadets at both the Military and Naval Academies, a number equal to the present number allowed by the existing law, in these schools, to be selected one from each of the Congressional Districts and Territories, by the Academic Board, from among such applicants as shall apply for admission, and who upon examination shall be deemed best qualified, provided the number of Cadets shall have all expenses defrayed by parents or guardians, who shall be required to deposit with the Superintendent of the Academies, each year, the estimated amount of money necessary to pay all expenses for one year; the Cadets being subject to all the rules and regulations established from time to time, for the Government of all Academies. The President is also required to have surveys and estimates made of the cost of constructing a ship canal around the Falls of Niagara, and to lay them before Congress, at its next session.

EXPLOSION AT THE ARSENAL—TEN MEN INJURED.
A serious accident occurred at the arsenal in this city early this afternoon, by an explosion in the apartment used for the preparation of fuses. The men sit in a row upon benches, half a pond of explosive composition, being the quantity allowed at any time to each workman. The explosion is attributed to friction, accidentally occasioned by pounding the materials. Eight or ten men were injured, the explosion communicating the fire from one to the other. All the men upon that bench were thrown from their places and badly burned about the face, breast, and other portions of the body. Some complain of internal injuries. They were taken to the hospital for medical treatment.

MECHANICS WANTED IN THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE.
The following notice has just been issued:
OFFICE OF MILITARY DIRECTOR AND SUPERVISOR OF THE ARSENAL, U. S. ARMY.
WASHINGTON, April 23, 1862.
Wanted immediately by the United States Government, ten bridge foremen, and 100 bridge carpenters. None need apply who cannot produce testimonials as to experience in this particular branch of carpentering.
D. C. McCALLUM,
M. D. and Sup't. Railroad, C. S.

GUNBOAT EXPEDITION TO FREDERICKSBURG.
WASHINGTON, Wednesday, April 23, 1862.
The King Philip arrived at the Navy-Yard this morning, and reports that the steamer Yankee went up the Rappahannock to Fredericksburg yesterday, having cautiously passed through the sunken obstructions seven miles below that town. Our flotilla have captured seven Rebel schooners, one of which had a valuable cargo of dry goods, medicines, and salt-petre, and also two small steamers. It is further stated that the Rebel pickets are occasionally seen on the south side of the river. Our troops still command the possession of Fredericksburg, the residents of which are entirely free in their usual business pursuits.

GEN. BANKS'S PROGRESS.
HARRISBURG, Pa., Wednesday, April 23, 1862.
Col. Donnelly made a reconnaissance to-day toward this town. When approaching, he was fired on by the Rebel cavalry.

Two companies of the Ohio cavalry were deployed on the left towards Gordonville turnpike, the same number of the Vermont cavalry on the right, and the Michigan cavalry on the center; Hampton's battery and the Connecticut 5th formed the reserve. The Rebel cavalry, after the first fire, retreated to the town, where they joined their command; and when escaping by the Gordonville route were passed by the Ohio cavalry. Seven men and eleven horses were captured. The rest escaped.

The town was then entered, and occupied by Col. Donnelly and the cavalry. We found in the town eight of Jackson's Winchester hostages, whom he released yesterday, near Scharnhausen, on their parole of honor.

Two had died of fatigue and want of attendance; the rest are now on their way home. Large amounts of grain and forage are being secured in the Valley.

VERMONT WOUNDED SOLDIERS.
BALTIMORE, Wednesday, April 23, 1862.
The Vermont wounded are all still at Old Point, but it is thought that some of them will be sent here. The hospitals here are getting ready in anticipation of the wounded coming from Yorktown.

CONDITION OF THE MERRIMAC.
Reports by Refugees.—Construction of Rebel Gun-Boats.—The Engagement of a portion of Gen. Burnside's Troops.—Defeat of the Rebels.—Re-enforcement of Yorktown.
FORT MONROE, Tuesday, April 23, 1862.
A small row boat arrived here this morning from Norfolk containing three men, a woman, and two children.
The refugees report the Merrimac still at the Gosport Navy-Yard. Workmen were engaged in placing iron shields over her port holes. It was supposed that the improvements would be completed and the Merrimac would be out again in two or three days. The Merrimac was around the last day she came out, as was generally supposed here. Nothing was said in Norfolk about the bursting of a gun, and that supposition was undoubtedly incorrect. Capt. Buchanan is thought to be still alive, having been wounded by a rifle shot on the thigh. It was only a flesh wound.
The steamer Jamestown and steam-tug Beaufort went up the James River on Friday, and the Yorktown on Sunday, to obtain coal at Richmond. They took in tow a number of schooners loaded with iron to be rolled into place at the Tredegar Works, in Richmond.
Four new gunboats have been launched at the Navy-Yard, and four more are in the course of construction at Norfolk. A part of these will be covered with the iron plates above mentioned.
The previously-reported engagement between the troops of Gen. Burnside and a Georgia regiment took place on Saturday. The Union troops are said to have numbered 500. The Rebel troops consisted of the 3d Georgia Regiment, Col. Wright. The engagement took place near Elizabeth City, but on the canal above that place. The Rebel loss was 15 killed and 35 wounded. They were only partly equipped, and many lacked muskets and ammunition. They are said to have run away on being attacked. The Union troops held their ground until they had buried their dead and carried away their wounded, when they retired. Eleven graves of Union soldiers were subsequently counted on the battle-field.
One of the refugees visited Richmond last week. He stated that there are very few troops either there or at Norfolk, they having been sent to Yorktown; 14,000 troops are said to have passed through Richmond on one day last week, bound for Yorktown.
The whole party of refugees came from Savannah. One of the men, who brings his wife and children, belongs in Halifax. Another belongs in New-York, and is a carpenter by trade. The third is one of the crew of the Fingal, which ran the blockade some time since at Savannah. The crew of the Fingal were sent here from Norfolk by a flag of truce some weeks since, but were immediately returned. The rest of the crew were still in Norfolk up to last Saturday they were supported by the British Consul, but a recent dispatch from Lord Lyons has thrown them upon their own resources, and it is supposed they will be forced to enlist in the Rebel navy.
One of the men, who left Savannah on the 1st of March, reports great consternation there.
The steamer Fingal and other vessels in the harbor were ready to be sunk or burnt. The troops in the vicinity of Savannah have been dying in large numbers, on account of the dirty condition in which they keep themselves.
The city might have been easily taken by our troops at the time of their landing at Port Royal. An attack was then confidently expected, and the whole city was in a state of intense excitement and alarm.
The refugees arrived at Old Point at about half-past 2 o'clock this morning, after passing very close to the Rebel pickets and batteries, and were hailed for the first time by the steamer Baltimore, lying in the Roads.
The English steamer Rinaldo left her anchorage in the upper part of the Roads this forenoon, and is now anchored below the Minnesota.
The French steamer Grandi returned from Norfolk with M. Mercier, the French Minister, this afternoon. His dispatches proceed immediately to New-York by sea, where a steamer is in waiting to cross the Atlantic.

CAPTURE OF A REBEL GUNBOAT.
PITTSBURG LANDING, Wednesday, April 23, 1862.
The gunboat Tyler, while reconnoitering up the Tennessee River, captured the Rebel steamer J. Cobb near the mouth of Crane Creek.
This is one of the boats which included our first expedition up the river, after the fall of Fort Henry. Her name has been changed to Lady Tyler.
The weather is rather more pleasant.

ARMY AND NAVY.
The arrival of the remainder of the prisoners captured in Port Pulaski increases the number of Southern officers and men in confinement on Governor's Island to 300, as follows:
Prisoners from Newbern.....19
Prisoners from Port Pulaski.....30
Total officers and men.....49

The officers are quartered in the rooms occupied by the Fort Hatteras officers, and like them, are allowed the liberty of the Island until retreat, after which they are confined to the garrison. Most of them appear to have money, and avail themselves pretty freely of the privilege which has been extended to them of sending to the city for any extra supplies. The men are taken to the barracks, and are confined to Castle William and its immediate vicinity. Their rations are cooked in the garrison and sent down to them under charge of the Provost-Sergeant. Most of the Port Pulaski prisoners are soldierlike men, but their dirty-gray uniform spoils their appearance altogether.

The departure of the Galena from the Brooklyn Navy-Yard has liberated a number of mechanics and other employees, who have been distributed among the vessels fitting out, which will now be pushed forward with increased spirit. The new schooner war Adronlock is progressing pretty well, but does not appear likely to be ready for sea in less than six weeks. The injuries she received at the Novelty Works have been repaired.

The frigate Sabine, in addition to the 100-pounder Parrot gun previously referred to, has received nine 3-inch Dahlgren guns. The latter are in place of the old-fashioned Sinech guns which formed part of her armament.

The new steamer Port Royal received her armament yesterday. It consists of six brass boat howitzers broadside, a 100-pounder Parrot gun aft, and one 10-inch Dahlgren gun forward.

The Ronooke is still undergoing alterations. Her air posts have been removed, and the cavities planked up, and the men are at work upon the steam-post and propeller-leaf.

The storeship Reliance left the yard yesterday for the Mediterranean depot at Spezia, Italy. In loading out she got aground, and the harbor fouled the propeller of the Dawn, but did no particular damage.

Commodore Paulding has ordered that the steamer Dawn be put into Commission at 1 o'clock to-day.

The schooner Susan, from Boston, arrived at the yard yesterday with cordage for the rigging department.

THE WAR IN THE SOUTH-WEST.
Affairs at Pittsburg Landing.—The Operations of the Fleet on the Mississippi.
CAIRO, Wednesday, April 23, 1862.
It is reported that the Mound City Hospital will be expended until the waters subside. The sick and wounded then will be transferred to other hospitals.
The steamer Tigress arrived this afternoon from Pittsburg Landing. The officers of the 12th Iowa who were on board report the water falling. Their regiment has but twelve effective men left.
A dispatch from the fleet, dated 23d, says that for three days not a gun had been fired, the combatants seemingly satisfied to save their powder until something can be accomplished by its use.
The enemy are reported to have fourteen gunboats off the fort, together with the ram Manassas. The latter and seven of the former arrived on Sunday. Hollins has returned from New-Orleans with McClure.
The steamer De Soto left the fleet yesterday with 100 bales of cotton for Cairo. This is the first shipment to the North since the commencement of hostilities.
Cairo, Wednesday, April 23, 1862.
A special from The Tribune from Cairo to-day, says:
The Memphis Appeal of the 17th received.
In an editorial devoted to the needs of the Mississippi Valley it acknowledges the danger of a success by Union Florida and advises the employment of every one, black or white to the extent of his ability for the defense of that endangered stronghold.
It advocates the construction of the most approved description of gunboats.
The paper acknowledges the fearful mortality among the Rebel officers at the recent battles, and attributes it to the enemy's organized bodies of sharpshooters, and advocates the organization of similar bodies in the Rebel army.
No demonstration had been made by the Unionists on the line of the Memphis and Ohio Railroad, between Memphis and Union City. The road is in operation to Trenton.
A report was current in Memphis by way of Corinth that the Unionists had abandoned the Tennessee River.
The Appeal says that the Rebel losses at the battle of Shiloh does not exceed 1,000 killed, 5,000 wounded, and 800 taken prisoners, and ascribes the defeat on Monday to the whiskey found in the Union encampment on Sunday night.
The remains of Gen. Johnston lay in state for two days at the City Hall, and on the 14th was placed in the vault in the St. Louis Cemetery, near New-Orleans.
The gentlemen who brought the Appeal says that since the passage of the Conscription bill by the Rebel Congress, all males between 18 and 35 have joined the army. There is no impressment, and the people enter the army with zeal.
Business is suspended, except in the case of goods for the army. Three gunboats are being constructed at Memphis, which will be completed in a week.
One, called the Arkansas, is plated with two thicknesses of railroad iron, placed transversely, and is considered more than a match for the whole Union flotilla.
Another is called the Beauregard, and is a wooden boat with 30 inches of compressed cotton placed between heavy wooden timbers 18 inches thick. This is also considered impregnable.
They are provided with provisions like the Merrimac. Our informant reports that there are 18,000 in the rear of Chickasaw Bluffs, making all necessary preparations to provide against an attack.
Burning the city is still talked of. Immense piles of tobacco, sugar, and molasses are gathered on the levee, and will be fired on the appearance of the Union fleet above Memphis.

THE BATTLE NEAR SANTA FE.
Further Particulars of the Battle—Noble Deeds of the Colorado Boys—Captain Cook Not Dead.
From The Denver News Extra, April 9.
From Major A. H. Mayer, late of this city, and Major elect of the 11th Regiment, New-Mexico Volunteers, who just arrived direct from the seat of war, we are favored with the following glowing and interesting particulars of the late engagements near Santa Fe. We give them in brief, as they were hastily taken.
The main fight took place at Apache Canon, 80 miles from Union, and 20 from Santa Fe. Three battalions, one under Major Chivington, one under Capt. Lewis, regular, and one under Capt. Wyckoff, advanced to the canon, on the 28th ult., when the Rebels reported no enemy in sight.
The command then advanced, when shots were fired at them by the Texans, who were in ambush, and succeeded in killing four privates. Our men, under Slough, rushed on them, killing 20 or 30 Texans, wounding many of them, and taking seven prisoners, four officers, and three privates. Major Chivington's command, which went ahead and surprised the Texas pickets, taking 15 prisoners, and 64 privates, were then ordered to advance, and a plan of action was determined upon to meet the enemy in front, and flank them at the same time.
About 12 o'clock on the 28th ult. the action began, the Coloradans doing wonders. The battery under Capt. Ritter, and also the howitzer battery under Lieut. Clafin, cleaned the Texans and things generally. The fight lasted until 4 o'clock, when flags of truce were sent, and the Texans had dead and care for the wounded. The enemy had about 2,000 men and one six-pounder. We had 1,300 men and one six and one twelve-pounder and four mortars. The enemy lost their entire train (61 wagons and provisions) and 120 mules; about 150 killed, 200 wounded, and 33 taken prisoners, among whom are 13 officers. Some of the latter have held commissions in the volunteer corps of the Territory, and were sent down to them under charge of the Provost-Sergeant. Most of the Port Pulaski prisoners are soldierlike men, but their dirty-gray uniform spoils their appearance altogether.

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THE IMPENDING BATTLE AT PITTSBURG.
Gen. Pope Ordered to Re-enforce Gen. Halleck.
CHICAGO, Wednesday, April 23, 1862.
The Times's correspondent from Fort Wright says that Gen. Pope's division has been ordered to re-enforce Gen. Halleck. The whole force left the fort for up the river on the 18th.

THE MARYLAND LEGISLATURE'S REPLY TO A HEARTY RESPONSE TO A ROBLE ACTION.
BALTIMORE, Wednesday, April 23, 1862.
A resolution, adopted by the Legislature of Maryland, and signed by Gov. Bradford, appropriating \$7,000 for the relief of the killed and disabled of the Massachusetts 6th Regiment by the mob in Baltimore, was read this afternoon, in the House, and referred to the Committee on Federal Relations. The resolution caused a marked sensation, and its reading was followed by hearty applause.

HIGH WATER IN THE POTOMAC RIVER.
BALTIMORE, Wednesday, April 23, 1862.
The high water in the Potomac River has done some damage to the bridge at Harper's Ferry, which will be speedily repaired.

SOLDIERS' LETTERS.
CAIRO, Monday, April 22, 1862.
The Postmaster at Cairo requests all Postmasters in mailing letters for the army, which should properly be sent to this office for distribution, to put them in separate packages, indorsed "Soldiers' letters," Cairo D. P. O. The enormous increase of letters received makes this an absolute necessity.

UNION REFUGEES FROM FLORIDA.
At an adjourned meeting of the Committee in aid of the Union refugees from Florida, held yesterday at the Chamber of Commerce, Wm. A. Booth, esq., was called to the chair, and Wm. Barton appointed Secretary.

The following statement and appeal to the citizens of New-York was prepared, and ordered to be published in the daily papers:
To the Citizens of New-York:
The Committee for the Relief of the Loyal Refugees from Jacksonville, Florida, appointed a meeting of citizens held at the Merchants' Exchange, on the 19th inst., have inquired into the circumstances under which the persons referred to have been driven from their homes, and have been reduced to their fellow-citizens as one which demands the most prompt and generous action.

The city of Jacksonville, on the eastern coast of Florida, 25 miles from the mouth of the St. John's River, was prior to the outbreak of the present rebellion, the most active and important commercial port in East Florida. A large proportion of the citizens of Jacksonville were of the Union, and were adherents of the Union cause; but overwhelmed by numbers, and awed into submission by the near presence of large bodies of Rebel troops, during a terrible month were constrained to leave their peace, and were stripped of large portions of their property by forced levies for the support of a cause which they had never espoused. They fled to the mouth of the St. John's River, and were thereupon the condition of things in Florida, and revealed the existence of a wide spread sentiment of loyalty throughout the Eastern portion of the State, and such of the inhabitants as had taken a willing part in the Confederate cause were seized with immediate arrest and banished to the interior of the State in fear of just punishment which they had brought upon their rebellious heads. They did not, however, cease until the national flag was planted in Jacksonville, and the Union cause was proclaimed in that city. The Union-loving citizens who refused to fly with them, and those who had been banished, returned to Jacksonville, and, coming to put an end to the reign of terror, to re-establish the authority of the United States on the soil of Florida, and to set up among them once more the line-honored flag which is the dearest emblem of our country, they have been met by the Rebels, who for the days that intervened before the entrance of the gunboats into St. John's River, the most numerous threats were made against them, and they were threatened with the loss of their lives and property, and the destruction of their homes. A detachment of 600 Confederate troops from Tallahassee, the headquarters of Gen. Trautman, joined by a guerrilla band of Rebels, invaded the town, set fire to the principal buildings and to many dwellings and a large storehouse, and threatened to run over the heads of the Unionists, and to put them to death. The arrival of Gen. 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